

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

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FOR CONSTABLE.

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FOR SUPERVISOR

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T. E. DISMUKES, JR.

OUR FIRE.

The fire Tuesday afternoon has been the topic of conversation over since. This is not a locking-the-stable door after the horse is gone story, but there are just a few general observations which it is well to note here. Columbus has had fires before and we will have them again. Cities have them where the finest equipment is

furnished; trained and experienced men are employed and where every and all precautions are taken to prevent the same. It is the history of every town and city.

Columbus, with her present population and administration and fire fighting facilities is no more able to cope with a conflagration like that of Tuesday than is the ordinary city of this size. We have an average department here organized to meet 90 per cent of the community's needs, but we are not organized or prepared for sky-scraper work; or to arrest a conflagration begun with gasoline, with pine compartments to feed on, fanned by a thirty mile gale at the time. We might as well realize facts.

It required probably a hundred men to do the good work done. Ninety-four of these were volunteers and six of them were paid men. Six men have been able, with proffered volunteer assistance, to handle the average fire in Columbus. The men in the employ of the city are the best men that the city could get. Last year there was a man shortage here and men were scarce. Wages are high and the city had difficulty in maintaining the paid force at its maximum strength. The authorities here did the best they could. This answers the criticism as to the personnel of the department.

Another subject of criticism was the water pressure. The city is connected with the power plant with only one ten-inch main, which supplies water for all purposes. If this were to break the city would be helpless. With innumerable hydrants opened, supplying streams for the fire, it was impossible to secure pressure. That is all there is to it. If the number of streams had been few there would have been pressure, but with nearly all town faucets open it was impossible to maintain the pressure with only one ten-inch main.

Another observation worth while is the origin and location of the fire. From all The Dispatch can learn it had its origin in a gasoline explosion. Gasoline is highly combustible and spreads a sheet of flame. The location of the fire was in a building divided into innumerable compartments by pine partitions. These prevented the water from reaching the scene of the flames until it was too late. Once in the open the flames were fanned by a stiff breeze which endangered property for blocks south of it. The corner, we are informed, has burned four times. It was of the flimsiest construction, costing when built only \$9,500. It was a perfect fire trap and once started it burned so rapidly that its occupants had to flee for their lives.

The bank building would have been saved but for the window opening on the west wall. If these had been fitted with fire-proof doors the bank would be standing now. Men opened the fire hydrants on these floors in an effort to save the building, but it was impossible. Once started the three top floors were beyond the reach of firemen and they soon burned. When the fire reached the third floor the firemen stopped it, although it required heroic work to do it.

As to the fire situation here two opinions are held by those who are charged with the responsibility of dealing with it. One is to construct another water main to connect the city with the water plant, giving us additional water and pressure for just such crises as that of last Tuesday and safeguarding the city in the event the present main would break and the other view is that the city ought to immediately install a motor fire truck. Engineer Ludlow recommended an additional main, which will probably cost \$25,000. A modern motor truck will cost around \$10,000. The advocates of the former argue that the new main will give us an adequate supply and pressure for all purpose and besides insuring a reduction of our insurance, would guarantee a supply of water in the event of an accident to the present line. The advocates of a motor truck claim speed in getting to a fire; economy in feed bill, and additional pressure.

The Dispatch favors a new main. Then a truck of some kind can be secured to save time in going to fires. It is, however, a question for all our citizens to consider, for the mayor and council will abide by the wishes in the matter.

REBUILD WORTH WHILE.

Out of many a defeat has come a great victory; out of failure success has been wrought; and out of disaster has come a new order of things. Out of the fire-swept province of many a city has come a larger and greater and more beautiful and progressive city. May it be so with Columbus.

There is always some rift in the cloud; there is always a silver lining. In Columbus' misfortune the comforting assurance comes that most of the losses were partially, if not wholly, covered by insurance, and in the further thought that the losses have fallen upon those who

can bear them. Another assuring thing is to know that there is more money here than ever before; that our community is in good condition to withstand the loss and those upon whom it has fallen are optimistic and resolute about the future.

We trust the bank people will rebuild nothing less than a four-story building, which will continue to be an ornament to the town; that the corner will pass into the hands of local capitalists who will build a handsome structure; or that its present owners will do so and that from the ashes of the present fire will come buildings which will be a credit to the whole city, a monument to its progress and stability.

COLUMBUS A CITY OF NOTABLE PLUCK.

The entire south should be proud of Columbus, Miss. A quarter of a million dollar fire would not startle a city of large population. Metropolitan cities are visited by million-dollar fires from time to time and forget the losses incurred the "next day."

But such a fire as destroyed many of the finest buildings in Columbus, a city of ten thousand, was nothing short of a disaster.

But Columbus is substantial and plucky or nothing. It is noted for its wealth and still more for its public spirit.

The embers of the conflagration were scarcely dead before the work of rebuilding was begun. Had Columbus needed assistance every town and city in the south would have been ready to contribute to a relief fund. But no aid was asked.

Columbus is a highly prosperous city. It has strong resources and at this juncture can rebuild itself without outside assistance. If sympathy is extended to our Mississippi neighbor, congratulations are also in order for the ability of Columbus to take care of itself.—Age-Herald.

MR. BELL FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

The Dispatch carries this morning the announcement of Hon. Ben F. Bell, of Starkville, as a candidate for District Attorney, subject to the action of the Democratic party at the August primaries.

Mr. Bell is one of the ablest and best known lawyers of the district. He has been a conspicuous member of the Starkville bar for the past twenty years and at the present time is the county attorney for Oktibbeha county.

Mr. Bell comes before the people of the district with the finest endorsement of his home people. He is well known and has strong friends in every county of the district. He is going to make a strong race and he will appreciate the support of all the people. His platform will be elaborated when he goes upon the stump and he wants all to hear him. Mr. Bell is well known in Lowndes and his friends are already rallying to his support.

Boyd Penrose, Pennsylvania's republican Senator, says that if Wilson lacks the League of Nations on the peace treaty in an attempt to force its adoption by the Senate, that Congress will adopt a joint resolution declaring that the war with Germany is ended and will pass up the Peace League. Lodge, in his debate with Lowell, said if the constitution of the league was rewritten safeguarding America's interests he would vote for it. Reed, in reply to a demand from the democrats in the Missouri legislature that he resign his seat in the Senate, said he would resign if all the others would resign and "would make the Peace League the issue before the American people. Reed said that the league would yet go before the American people in a referendum for the Senate would never adopt it. These are the three most important developments in the Peace League discussion the past week.

Labor has caught the vision of a larger democracy where capital and labor shall both share in the profits of our industrial system. This is the goal which is sought and its progress seems rapid. A democracy of capital and labor, founded upon principles of justice and equity would be preferable to the advancing living and wage scale. No man can foreshadow its ultimate end.

The people are ominously silent about the League of Nations. There are few outspoken opinions. They are willing apparently to let the President settle it. All hope that American sovereignty will be preserved and that our position will not be imperiled in signing up with Europe.

The Brooks-corner destroyed last Tuesday afternoon has been burned four times within the recollection of present citizens, first burning in 1854; then some time later, the exact date of which we have not been able to verify; then again in 1896 and again the past week.

Princess Theatre

PHONE 592

MONDAY, MARCH 24th

JESSE L. LASKY Presents

CECIL B. DEMILLE'S PRODUCTION

"THE SQUAW MAN"

An ARTCRAFT Picture, by Edwin Milton Royle. A modern version of Edwin Milton Royle's famous play, "THE SQUAW MAN." Adapted for the screen by Beulah Marie Dix.

"DEEP INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES THEY GAZED!"

But she, his boyhood sweetheart, is now another's wife. And he, "the proud white man," is bound by law and honor to the red-skinned mother of his boy! What would you do under such circumstances—civilize the red girl—or what?

THE CAST—ELLIOTT DEXTER, ANNE LITTLE, THEODORE ROBERTS, THURSTON HALL, JACK HOLT, KATHERINE MACDONALD, TULLY MARSHALL AND OTHERS.

Cecil DeMille made this picture. He also made "Joan the Woman," "Old Wives for New," "Whispering Chorus" and many others. If you saw them you will see this one.

ADMISSION 5c AND 15c

TUESDAY, MARCH 25th

Dorothy Gish, in "THE HOPE CHEST"

THE STAR OF "BATTLING JANE" IN ANOTHER WONDERFUL PICTURE

Also "ONE A MINUTE" a Comedy

ADMISSION 5c AND 15c

COMING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th, CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG IN
"ROAD THROUGH THE DARK"

MATINEE 3:00 AND 4:15

NIGHT 7:30 AND 8:45

"Forty-three years in one office, but she's gone now," murmured Dr. W. W. Westmoreland last Tuesday afternoon as he witnessed the collapse of the Ater building where his office has been located all of these years. Mr. Westmoreland estimated his loss at five hundred dollars and he was unprotected with insurance.

Hogs have gone higher since the removal of government control and wheat will probably follow. Evidently government control has been holding the profiteers down. When will it all end?

COMMUNICATED.

SOMETHING OF A FEW OF OUR
COUNTRY WARRIORS YET
IN FRANCE.

M. S. Chandler spent six months with Mississippi troops on the Mexican border. Later trained at Camp Beauregard, where he was commissioned second lieutenant January, 1918, then only nineteen years of age. Spent six weeks at rifle range in Camp Perry, Ohio. Specialized in sniping and was promoted to first lieutenant June 15th, 1918. Was sent to New York City August 1st, where he spent five weeks guarding a government arsenal on Governor's Island. Sailed for France with 39th division, August 22d. Was transferred to 82nd Division after landing. Did not see active service on the firing line. Since the armistice has attended a corps school at Clermont, where he specialized in rifle practice and won medal for expert workmanship. Is now with the 82nd Division at Champlite as first lieutenant Co. B. 327th infantry.

W. J. Love left Davidson College, N. C., June, 1918. Joined the marines at Birmingham, Ala., and spent July at Training Camp Paris Island, S. C. Specialized in bayonet exercise and bomb throwing, also qualified as marksman. Went to Quantico, Va., training camp in August and was placed in Co. A, 13th Regiment, U. S. Marines. Sailed for France September, landing at Brest. After extended route was at Bordeaux at date of armistice. Was granted leave and spent sometime in the Pyrenees mountains. It is intimated that he has in mind the preparation of a war story entitled, "Ten Nights in a Feather Bed." A friend whose tastes incline to history rather than fiction, however, suggests that he visit Genoa, the birthplace of Christopher Columbus, and get some first-hand data on the old discoverer, for he certainly started something when he placed America on the map and the end is not yet. In view of recent events he needs a new write-up.

At present, or a few weeks since, Private Love was at St. Sulpice, guarding three U. S. store houses, each 500 feet long and containing flour and sugar.

If eggs and lard are obtainable, Uncle Sam should give the dough-boys biscuits every day and cake on

Sunday, or let them come and respond to the familiar call of the dinner horn and eat hog and hominy and enjoy a well earned rest in quietness and contentment.

Three Angus Bulls, registered, well grown for age, running from 1 year to 15 months old; weight from 500 to 700. Will sell one or all, 250 bushels cotton seed, Wannahatchee Cleveland big boll, for planting purposes. If in need of either of the above phone 284-Y or write J. Dudley Watson, Route 1, Columbus, Miss. 3-23-2v

BUSINESS NOTICE.

This is to give notice to the general public that I have opened my law office in the office of Gen. E. T. Sykes, on Lawyers' Row, temporarily, my office having been destroyed in the recent disastrous fire.

T. W. LEWIS, JR.

Fresh Country Produce
Choicest Groceries

Prompt attention with Delivery
- or Phone Orders.

Don't forget to always call us up and get our prices before buying. They will interest you.

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Family and Fancy Groceries
Feedstuff and Country Produce

North 7th Ave.

Phones 536 and 154

IT ISN'T A NEW THING

To Commemorate the
Memory of a Loved
One.

Care should be taken to procure correct designs, perfect material and have the work executed by skilled workmen. We guarantee our work to please.

SEE OUR SPECIAL DESIGNS AND FINISHED MONUMENTS

Columbus Marble Works
COLUMBUS, MISS.

For the
Lenten
Season

White, fat thick and juicy No. 1 Mackerel, 22 oz.50c
Fancy Smoked Bloaters.....10c
Kipperd Ling Cod (Large Can)25c
Shredded Codfish, pkg.....20c
Boneless Codfish (not mixed)35c
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Fish Flakes Fancy Salmon
Lake Shrimp Crab Meat
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